Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
Potomac Heights Mutual Home Owners Association
April 7, 2010
PWSID # 00800038

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is two (2) potable wells drilled at an average depth of 550 feet in the Patapsco Aquifer.

A source water assessment plan has been completed that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is available at the Charles County Public Library or from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water , please contact our Housing Office at 301-743-3031. We want our residents to be informed about their water. If you want to learn more, please attend one of our semi-annual membership meetings. They are held on the 3rd Monday of the months of April and October.

Potomac Heights routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2009 As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The “Goal”(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (Distribution) (2008)	N	0.086	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride Well 3 Well 4	 N N	 0.70 0.70	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (2008)	N	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Thallium Well 3 Well 4	 N N	 2.0 2.0	ppb	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Well 3 Well 4	 N N	 < 1.0 < 1.0	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides						
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate Well #3 (2007) Well #4 (2007)	 N N	 0.8 0.7	ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes]	N	4.36	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5s (Distribution) [Haloacetic acids]	N	0.56	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium Well 3 Well 4	 N N	 55.0 60.0	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits;
Chloroform Well 3 (2005) Well 4 (2006)	 N N	 0.7 4.4	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane Well 3 (2005) Well 4 (2006)	 N N	 0.6 1.0	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Note: Test results are for year 2009 unless otherwise noted; annual testing is not required for all contaminants.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Potomac Heights is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead..

NOTE: As can be seen by results listed in the above tables, lead, which is tested for triennial (every 3 years) in accordance with Federal and State regulations in Potomac Heights distribution system, was not detected in samples collected in 2008.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Potomac Heights, Board of Directors, Manager and Staff are dedicated to providing top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our members help protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life our children's future.